

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2504

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017

Import-Export of Drugs

Hemamalini Smt.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum and value of medicines/drugs imported during each of the last three years and current year, country-wise;
(b) whether India is largely dependent on import particularly from China to meet the bulk of the requirement of various drugs including essential drugs and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs);
(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
(d) the measures taken by Government to boost export of medicines/ drugs and encourage the Indian pharmaceutical companies to increase their production so as to reduce dependence on imports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): The value of medicines/drugs imported into the country along with the quantity for top 30 countries during the last three years and the current year is given at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): The estimated production of bulk drugs by indigenous drug manufacturing companies in 2016 was US\$ 11.7 billion. Indian drug manufacturers import pharmaceuticals including drug intermediates, bulk drugs and formulations from various countries. India imports substantial drugs and pharmaceuticals from China in the form of raw materials as well as finished products for both domestic consumption and exports. Out of India's total imports of medicines/drugs of US\$ 4.45 billion in 2016-17, imports from China was US\$ 1.96 billion (44.1%). One of the reasons for imports from China is the price competitiveness of these products.

(d): The Government is taking several measures to boost exports under Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) schemes. Financial assistance through Pharmexcil, an Export Promotion Council, is provided under MDA and MAI Schemes by Department of Commerce to exporters of various pharmaceuticals products particularly small and medium size exporters to promote their exports in various countries. Incentives to pharmaceuticals industry are also available in various trade promotion schemes like Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Advance Authorization Scheme, DFIA (Duty Free Import Authorization) for import of raw materials and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme for import of Capital Goods etc.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2504 for answer on 31st July 2017.

India's Imports of Medicines/Drugs from Top 30 Countries

S. No. Countries Unit 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 * 2017-18

(April-May)*

Quantity Value

(US \$ Millions) Quantity Value

(US \$ Millions) Quantity Value

(US \$ Millions) Quantity Value

(US \$ Millions)

1 China P RP KGS 154.15 2218.37 160.18 2265.88 171.06 1963.68 39.95 365.37

2 U S A KGS 13.40 416.57 13.22 453.49 13.03 408.44 2.13 69.90

3 Germany KGS 4.72 427.76 5.03 378.22 4.86 322.83 0.94 41.00

4 France KGS 8.70 171.48 7.63 179.91 5.37 189.03 0.90 26.51

5 Italy KGS 5.56 195.04 6.67 176.62 5.20 176.29 0.69 30.02

6 Switzerland KGS 0.53 159.54 0.37 138.80 0.48 132.39 0.08 29.36

7 Denmark KGS 0.10 98.96 0.04 93.94 0.06 112.50 0.01 12.10

8 Indonesia KGS 15.52 142.64 16.77 154.48 18.57 109.28 5.16 11.71

9 U K KGS 0.41 66.33 0.51 82.26 0.60 94.16 0.24 18.05

10 Spain KGS 3.18 81.11 3.17 91.25 3.62 84.13 0.47 14.08

11 Singapore KGS 5.37 43.38 16.48 92.73 19.02 81.73 3.62 10.39

12 Korea Rp KGS 8.62 74.81 13.15 69.87 12.80 81.38 2.02 8.96

13 Belgium KGS 9.91 89.30 0.33 80.39 0.38 78.05 0.12 12.40

14 Brazil KGS 0.23 66.58 0.56 49.34 0.32 76.73 0.06 8.01

15 Netherland KGS 1.74 96.48 3.54 82.31 6.21 72.94 1.10 11.04

16 Japan KGS 7.48 73.57 9.10 73.87 7.40 59.17 1.40 7.83

17 Austria	KGS	0.71	26.42	0.61	28.62	0.83	45.86	0.33	11.53
18 Puerto Rico	KGS	0.01	9.20	0.25	31.37	0.24	39.36	0.06	8.87
19 Ireland	KGS	0.05	37.40	0.03	18.05	0.03	33.69	0.00	6.29
20 Taiwan	KGS	0.73	35.16	0.33	41.14	0.33	31.12	0.12	3.96
21 Hungary	KGS	0.01	15.10	0.01	22.26	0.02	29.87	0.00	2.95
22 Mexico	KGS	0.19	29.86	0.19	27.81	0.22	29.09	0.04	3.65
23 Israel	KGS	0.19	31.42	0.17	31.88	0.10	28.47	0.01	3.44
24 Australia	KGS	0.38	32.29	0.61	23.22	0.94	22.97	0.30	5.85
25 Malaysia	KGS	0.20	5.75	2.17	14.25	2.37	15.70	1.19	3.18
26 Thailand	KGS	12.45	22.05	13.65	21.31	10.17	14.82	2.14	3.40
27 Canada	KGS	0.06	16.56	0.03	15.55	0.06	14.42	0.00	0.94
28 Slovenia	KGS	0.03	33.00	0.02	25.20	0.02	10.79	0.01	0.40
29 Sweden	KGS	0.01	8.60	0.00	8.85	0.11	9.13	0.05	3.07
30 Nepal	KGS	2.71	11.08	3.00	10.94	3.18	8.40	0.50	1.45
Total of above 30 countries		257.34	4735.78	277.84	4783.84	287.59	4376.40	63.63	735.70
India's total imports of medicines/drugs		276.19	4865.75	284.09	4885.04	294.31	4454.12	64.63	755.28
% share of China in total medicines/drugs imports		55.81	45.59	56.38	46.38	58.12	44.09	61.80	48.38

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata (* Provisional)